

116.

Seldome comes the better :

OR,

An admonition to all sorts of people, as Husbands, Wiues, Masters, and Seruants, &c. to auoid mutability, and to fix their minds on what they possesse,  
To the tune of the He-Deuill.



**Y**ou men that are well twined,  
and yet doe raille on Fate,  
As though you were depriued  
thereby of happy state :  
Learne well to be contented  
with a good wife, if you get her,  
For often when the old wife's dead,  
seldome comes the better.

I once had a wife,  
I would to God she had liued,  
For while she liued lent me her life,  
in different well I thriued ;  
Yet cause that she would chide at me,  
I wist that death would set her,  
But since I haue got a worse then she,  
for seldome comes the better.

She would tell me for my good,  
that I must leaue my vice,  
But I not rightly vnderstood  
her counsell of high price;  
Full glad was I when she was dead,  
so much at nought I set her.  
But since I haue got a worse in her stead,  
for seldome comes the better.

I now haue one thats not content  
with any thing I doe;  
The others tongue did me torment,  
this scolds and beates me too.

I thought when I was rid of one,  
that Fortune was my debtoe :  
But now I see when one wife's gone,  
that seldome comes the better.

That wife would onely me reprove,  
for walking of my shoe;  
But she, as well as I, both lous  
the good Ale pot, and more,  
she l'it at the Alehouse all the day,  
and if the house will let her,  
she'l run on the scoze, and I must pay,  
thus seldome comes the better.

The other was a hasty wife good,  
when she a penny spent,  
It went from her like drops of bloud,  
toth' Alehouse she ne're went,  
Unlesse it were to fetch home me,  
for which at nought I set her,  
But this wife is quite contrary,  
for seldome comes the better.

And if I doe rebuke her as  
a Husband ought and will,  
she'l call me Rogue and Kall base,  
her tongue will ne're lye still ;  
Pay much a doe ; haue to shun  
her blowes if much I fret her ;  
The other quickly would haue done :  
thus seldome comes the better.



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that Fortune was my debtoe;  
But now I see when one wife's gone,  
that seldome comes the better.

That wife would onely me reproue,  
for walking of my shoe;  
But she, as well as I, both loue  
the good Ale pot, and more,  
she l'it at the Alehouse all the day,  
and if the house will let her,  
she'l run on the scoze, and I must pay;  
thus seldome comes the better.

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her blowes if much I fret her;  
The other quickly would haue done;  
thus seldome comes the better.



The Second part,

To the same tune.



**W**hen I consider well of this,  
it soe both bere my minde;  
When I thinke what tis to misse  
a wife that's true and kinde.  
There's many men like me that haue  
good Wives, yet wish for neater,  
And saue would send the old toth' grave,  
in hope they shall haue better.

But that both seldome come to passe,  
though many hope it will:  
Therefore let him that has a good Lasse,  
desire to keepe her still:  
For though she hath some small defect,  
to chide when he doth fret her,  
Yet let him not her loue neglect,  
for seldome comes the better.

Some thinke that were their old Wives  
such are their sickle mindes (dead,  
They should get richer in their steads,  
but few or none that findes  
Their expectation answered.  
suppose the portion's greater,  
Yet he may say as I haue sed.  
that seldome comes the better.

There's many Lads, and Lasses young,  
that in good seruice light,  
And yet they thinke that they haue to long  
to serue their time out quite,  
They loue to shift from place to place,  
to b'itt'le from the greater,  
Till at last they say in wofull case,  
faine, seldome comes the better.

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Change of pasture makes fat Calues,  
this is a proverbe v's'd,  
Which soe another like it saues,  
and helpes the first abus'd.  
A rotting stone ne're gathers mosse:  
so he that is a flitter  
From house to house, shall find with losse,  
that seldome comes the better.

Likewise some men and women hath,  
when they haue Seruants true,  
To keepe them ouer-long th'are loth,  
but still they wish for new;  
And hauing put the old away,  
they take some farrs vntruer,  
Which being tri'd, at last they say  
faine, seldome comes the better.

And he that hath a perfect friend,  
let him retaine his loue,  
Lest losing th'old, the new is v'end  
a fained friend doe proue:  
And so it happens many times,  
as some can tell that yet are  
Aline, and doe lament their crimes,  
with seldome comes the better.

Therefore let all both Men and Wives,  
Seruants and Masters all,  
Thinke on this Proverbe all their liues,  
the vse on't is not small:  
If you are well, your selues so keepe,  
and strue not to be greater;  
Be sure to looke befoze you leape,  
for seldome comes the better.

FINIS.



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But I not rightly vnderstood  
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that Fortune was my debto:  
But now I see when one wife's gone,  
that seldome comes the better.

That wife would onely me reprove,  
for waiking of my sloze;  
But this, as well as I, doth loose  
the good Ale pot, and more,  
She'l sit at the Alehouse all the day,  
and if the house will let her,  
She'l run on the scoze, and I must pay;  
thus seldome comes the better.

The other was a huswife good,  
when she a penny spent,  
It went from her like drops of bloud,  
toth' Alehouse she ne're went,  
Unlesse it were to fetch home me,  
for which at nought I set her,  
But this wife is quite contrary,  
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And if I doe reboke her as  
a Husband ought and will,  
She'l call me Rogue and Rasall base,  
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And yet they thinke that they haue wrong  
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They loue to shift from place to place,  
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Till at last they say in wooll case,  
faith, seldome comes the better.

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Lest losing th' old, the new it's end  
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Be sure to looke before you leape,  
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